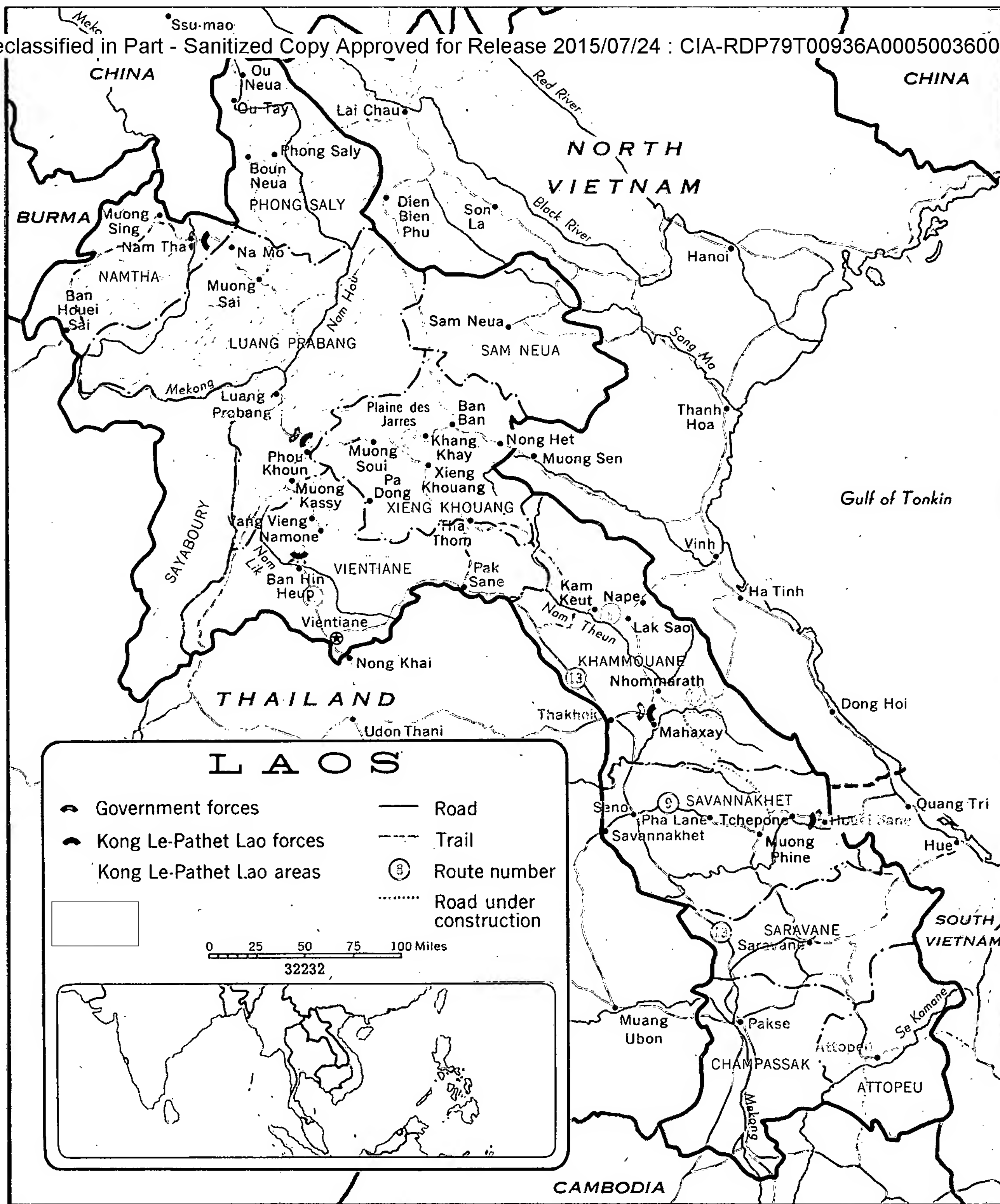


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

12 FEB. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Berlin air corridors

b. A special edition of Izvestia yesterday accused the West of avoiding solutions of major issues and stalling for time on Berlin. This and the air corridor encroachments seem to us intended to remind the West that Khrushchev still expects to achieve some change in the status quo.

2. Laos

a. Both sides are making things more difficult by intemperate statements. Boun Oum now wants withdrawal of the North Vietnamese from Laos before he will talk with Souvanna.

b. Souvanna's request for an audience with the King has not been answered.

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c. Phoumi is preparing, against Brown's advice, to airlift another battalion to Nam Tha, a move which we believe could cause the Communists to resume their attack on the town, where things were relatively quiet over the weekend. Brown believes Phoumi is reconciled to the loss of US support and "will act as he pleases as long as his resources hold out."

3. French-Algerian negotiations

Chances are good that the climactic meetings now in progress will be successful. We are disturbed, however, by the deterioration of De Gaulle's center position in the Metropole over the last few days. The tendency towards polarization of left and right has been reinforced by free trade union and Socialist Party decisions to join the Communists in "silent demonstrations" against the OAS tonight, in defiance of a government ban, and in a general strike tomorrow when the funerals of those killed last week will be held. These hints of a popular front are pushing moderates into the arms of the OAS. (Ambassador Gavin reports a resurgence of rumors that the United States is supporting the OAS.)

4.

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NOTES

- A. Struelens, Tshombé's representative in the US, claims that Tshombé will make his trip here as scheduled, using a Belgian passport.

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- C. A general strike against Jagan's government is to begin today in British Guiana.

- D. There have been no further developments reported from Guatemala. Our best guess now is that the rebels will try to sustain a protracted guerrilla effort in the hope of wearing the government down.

- E. The political situation in Syria remains unstable, with sharp differences between and among civilian and military groups.

- F. The Venezuelan army has been alerted against violence by "extremist factions" today and tomorrow.

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I.

[Redacted]

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II.

[Redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE